

## Travels in Virginia in Revolutionary Times

By A. J. MORRISON.  
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With the Convention Army in Virginia.

General Burgoyne, of amiable qualities but of no great skill as a commander, having had the misfortune to lose his army at Saratoga, in the month of October, 1777, a convention was agreed upon stipulating the treatment to be accorded the defeated troops. Thereafter, until exchanged, these Saratoga troops were known among themselves as the Convention Army. The act of saving one's face is one of the most intricate yet in existence. Young Thomas Ambury, who was perhaps a lieutenant in the Twenty-ninth Regiment of Foot under General Burgoyne, surrendered with his brother officers, and with them was sent first to Cambridge, Mass., and later to Virginia. Ambury, a very cheerful young person, kept a sort of journal of his military and other travels in America, and worked up his notes into the form of letters to a friend. His observations are not profound, but are marked by good sense and ingenuity, and make much better reading than more pretentious narratives.

After being quartered for more than a year in Massachusetts, Ambury and his friends were sent South, in order to shift the incidence of taxation in the matter of subsistence for so many able-bodied men, numbers of whom (the Hessians, for instance) no doubt had in America their first opportunity of getting at least one square meal a day. "Especially the Germans," says Ambury, "who seeing in what a comfortable manner their countrymen lived left us in great numbers as we marched through New York, the Jerseys and Pennsylvania; among the number of deserters in my servant, who, as we left, left me, and came home with my horse, portmanteau, and everything he could take with him." It was at best a strange spectacle, this of an army of desirable citizens marching captives through an adjoining wilderness, and merely on parole. From Lancaster the Convention Army moved to Frederick Town, in Maryland, where they spent Christmas Day, 1778. The commissary of provisions at Frederick, Mr. McMurdo, was very polite to the officers quartered at his house. Ambury says: "His attention was such that although for this time which is as much a day of festival as in England, he had been engaged for some time past among his friends and relations, he would stay at home and entertain us with an excellent Christmas dinner, not even forgetting what had been often told me, that the further I went to the southward I should find the inhabitants possess more liberality and hospitality." Another

of our impressions of the North, of course, were formed rather precipitately at Saratoga.

Charlottesville, almost a frontier town then, was the destination of the Convention Army. "After we left Frederick Town we crossed the Potomack River with imminent danger, as the current was very rapid, large floats of ice swimming down it; though the river was only half a mile wide, the crossing was over in had several narrow escapes. At one time it was quite fastened in the ice, but by great exertions of the men in breaking it, we made good our landing on the opposite shore, near a mile lower than the ferry." And the river crossed, hardships only increased on the Virginia side. The roads were bad from a late fall of snow not sufficiently entrained to melt a man's weight. The troops were continually sinking in mud up to their knees and cutting their shins and ankles; and after a march of sixteen or eighteen miles, the army had to be quartered in the woods and the officers in their own cabins available.

"But on our arrival at Charlottesville no pen can describe the confusion that ensued. The officers of the First and Second Brigades were in the town, and our arrival added to their distress. This famous place we had heard so much of consisted of a few houses, one tavern, and about a dozen houses, all of which were crowded with officers. Those of our brigade, therefore, were obliged to ride about the country and treat the inhabitants to take us in." The men fared very badly. Instead of sleeping on the snow, under the trees, they went into barracks, hastily covering over a few cabins which had been begun but were left unroofed, and half-filled with snow. The trouble was that Colonel Harvey, to whom Congress had assigned the task of quartering the army, had in turn placed his brother in charge. Colonel Harvey's brother said that the army was not expected until the spring. There was no whiskey provided, the stock of provisions was scant, and the quarters were described of the network description.

"As to the officers, upon signing a parole they might go to Richmond and other adjacent towns to procure themselves quarters. Accordingly a parole was signed, which allowed a circuit of near 100 miles. And after the officers had drawn their parole, three were to remain in the barracks with the men, or at Charlottesville, the principal part of them set off for Richmond, and many of them are at plantations twenty or thirty miles from the barracks. I was quartered, with four other officers of our regiment, at

## A SURGICAL OPERATION



If there is any one thing that a woman dreads more than another it is a surgical operation.

We can state without fear of a contradiction that there are hundreds, yes, thousands, of operations performed upon women in our hospitals which are entirely unnecessary and many have been avoided by

### LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

For proof of this statement read the following letters.

Mrs. Barbara Base, of Kingston, Kansas, writes to Mrs. Pinkham:

"For eight years I suffered from the most severe form of female troubles and was told that an operation was my only hope of recovery. I wrote Mrs. Pinkham for advice, and took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and it has saved my life and made me a well woman."

Mrs. Arthur R. House, of Church Road, Moorestown, N. J., writes:

"I feel it is my duty to let people know what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me. I suffered from female troubles, and last March my physician decided that an operation was necessary. My husband objected, and urged me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and to-day I am well and strong."

### FACTS FOR SICK WOMEN.

For thirty years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs, has been the standard remedy for female ills, and has positively cured thousands of women who have been troubled with displacements, inflammation, ulceration, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, and backache.

Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health. Address, Lynn, Mass.

Jones's Plantation, about twenty miles from the barracks. The face of the country appears an immense forest, interspersed with various plantations, four or five miles distant from each other. On these there is a dwelling house in the centre, with kitchen, smoke-house and outhouses detached, and from the buildings each plantation has the appearance of a small village. At some little distance from the houses are peach and apple orchards, and scattered over the plantation are the cabins of the negro "houses." The worm fence was an object of wonder to every foreigner, and yet in a country of abundant timber the most natural thing in the world. Ambury mentions that in the New England settlements (where the holdings were smaller and fences could be made with more particularity) the inhabitants had a saying, "He is making Virginia fences," used of a man not sober, but able to walk, as it were.

Ambury was twice at Richmond, once in the winter and once in the summer of 1779. The neighboring gentlemen were very hospitable, and would not let him leave until he had visited the whole circle. He speaks especially of "Warwick" and "Tuckahoe." The proprietor of "Tuckahoe" was threatened with the burning of his valuable mills because an English officer had been made welcome. It was an idle threat. On the way to Richmond, by the road through Goochland County, Ambury and three or four others celebrated roundabout directions: "If perchance you meet an inhabitant and enquire your way, his directions are, if possible, more perplexing than the road, for he will lead you to a road that has three forks; keep the right-hand fork for about half a mile, and then you'll come to a creek; after you cross that creek you must turn to the left, and there you'll come to a tobacco house; after you have passed that you'll come to another road that forks; keep the right-hand fork, and then you'll come to Mr. Such. A one ordinary, and he will direct you to the fact of such directions as these, and the use made of them, are to be explained when we remember that the backwoodsman carries a map in his head, whereas the cockney's brain is damaged by the use of maps."

In the woods the Convention officer comes upon a track for quarter-racing. "Near most of the ordinarys there is a piece of ground cleared in the woods for that purpose, where there are two paths, about six or eight yards asunder, which the horses run in. I think I can, without the slightest exaggeration, assert that even the famous Eclipse could not excel them in speed, for our horses are some time before they are able to get into full speed; but these are trained to set out in that manner the moment of starting. It is the most ridiculous amusement imaginable, for if you happen to be looking another way, the race is terminated before you can turn your head; notwithstanding which, very considerable sums are betted at these races. Only in the interior parts of this province are these races held, for they are much laughed at and ridiculed by the people in the lower parts, about Richmond and other great towns. At Williamsburg is a very excellent course for two, three or four-mile heats."

On his summer trip to Richmond, Ambury was struck by the numbers of peach orchards in full fruit—"it seemed no trespass to stop and pick fresh yourself and your horse with them"—and by the sight of a family leaving a most comfortable house and good plantation to set out for Kentucky over the mountains. The summer of 1779 apparently was a good peach season, and a bad season in the item of forest fires. "The town of Richmond, as well as the plantations around it, some miles, has been in imminent danger, as the woods have been on fire, which for some time past has raged with great fury, and that element seemed to threaten universal destruction; but, providentially, before it had done any material damage there fell a very heavy rain, which, nevertheless, had not altogether extinguished it July 14, 1779. During the summer months these fires are very

frequent, and at Charlottesville I have seen the mountains on a blaze for three or four miles in length. They are occasioned by the carelessness of woodsmen."

During the winter of 1779 the Convention Army at Charlottesville lost heavily by desertion. "I should observe that this desertion is among the British troops. For what reason it is impossible to say, the Americans show more indulgence to the Germans, permitting them to go round the country to labor, and being for the most part expert handcraftsmen, they realize a great deal of money exclusive of their pay."

The officers made themselves pretty comfortable. They put up a coffee house, a theatre and cold bath. Ambury made, or had made, a drawing entitled "Encampment of the Convention Army at Charlottesville, Va., in Virginia, after they had surrendered to the Americans." In this interesting print it is difficult to distinguish the theatre, but the coffee house is easily found.

September, 1780, when orders came to move to the North again, the officers were loath to go. They had understood that they were to remain at Charlottesville until exchanged. Several of them "had laid out great sums in making themselves comfortable habitations; for the barracks became a little town, and there being more society, most of the officers had resorted there. The great objection to residing at them, on our first arrival, was on account of the confined situation, being not only surrounded, but even in the woods themselves. The proprietor of the estate will reap great advantages, as the army entirely cleared a space of six miles in circumference around the barracks. After we quitted the barracks, the inhabitants were near a week in destroying the cats that were left behind, which impelled by hunger had gone into the woods. There was reason to suppose they would become extremely wild and ferocious and would be a great annoyance to their poultry."

The Convention Army, crossing the "Piguet Ridge, or more properly, the Blue Mountains," at Wood's Gap, moved to Winchester, and thence, recrossing the Ridge at Williams's Gap, proceeded to Frederick Town, and so to New York to take ship.

### Raleigh Social News.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
RALEIGH, N. C., November 21.—Colonel and Mrs. A. B. Andrews entertained elaborately Wednesday evening in honor of their son, Mr. Alexander Boyd Andrews, Jr., and his bride, who were Miss Margaret Medley. The wedding train, which arrived from their wedding trip, receiving in the parlor were Colonel and Mrs. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Boyd Andrews, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Andrews. In the dining-room the hostess was assisted by Mrs. Thomas S. Keenan, Mrs. Bruce Wright, Miss Mattie Bailey, Mrs. Sherwood Higgs, Misses Louise Wright, Louise Lamar, Margaret Boylan, Mattie Bailey and Emily Drewry; in the hall by Mrs. R. D. W. Connor, Mrs. W. H. Williamson, Mrs. Pittinger, Mrs. Chas. Root and Mrs. Patten Morrell; in the library, by Mrs. C. A. Woodruff, Mrs. Hubert Haywood; serving cream and cake, Miss Mattie Higgs, Miss Sallie Dorch, Miss Mary Armistead Jones, Mrs. W. W. Roberts, Mrs. Ed. Chambers Smith. Others assisting were Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. W. Marks, Miss Gibbs, Mr. John Andrews, Mr. Graham Andrews. Among the out of town guests were Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Culp, Washington, and Miss Janet Dorch.

Wednesday afternoon there was a quiet home wedding, uniting in marriage Miss Rosa Fries Skinner and Mr. Henry Hedley Dalton, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hill, on Newbern Avenue, Mrs. Hill being a sister of the bride, who is a daughter of Mr. B. S. Skinner, of the late and Mr. Col. Dalton is a successful business man of New York. The marriage service was by Dr. L. McK. Pittinger, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

The Kentness Book Club was entertained Thursday by Miss Lula Riggs.

Mrs. Josephus Daniels was the hostess for the Fortnightly Review Club this week. The ladies are studying India, and there were papers of a most interesting character Tuesday afternoon by Mrs. McKimmon, Mrs. L. E. Foster, and Mrs. James H. Poir.

Mrs. Daniels accorded delightful entertainment. She had as a guest this week Miss Bessie London, of Pittsburg, who was on her way to Chapel Hill to spend a while with her sister, The L. O. B. Branch Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, has elected as officers for the next year Mrs. Josephus Daniels, president; Miss Kate McKimmon, vice-president; Mrs. W. L. Foster, secretary; Mrs. B. B. Stronach, treasurer; Mrs. E. B. Willis, historian; Mrs. A. J. Fields, registrar.

Invitations were issued the past week by Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Wright, for the marriage of their daughter, Flora, to Mr. Jacob Tatum Eaton, at Farmington, November 27th, in the Baptist Church. Bride and bridegroom to be at home in Raleigh, No. 305 Newbern Avenue, December 2d.

Mrs. Russell G. Sherrill received Tuesday afternoon in honor of her sister, Mrs. Gregory F. Gannon, who was Miss Lilly Ferrall. Those who assisted Mrs. Sherrill in receiving and entertaining were Mrs. Bruce Wright, Mrs. Gavin Dorch, Mrs. James I. Johnson, Mrs. W. J. Crawford, Miss Nellie Murray, Misses Lucy Haywood, Katharine Boylan, Mary Peterson, Louise Wright and Mary Sherrill.

Mrs. D. Sunderland and Miss Miriam Allen.

Mrs. Cornelia R. Holleman elaborated her ninety-sixth birthday this week at the home of her niece, Mrs. N. B. Broughton. She was born in Connecticut and came South at the age of sixteen, living first at Chapel Hill.

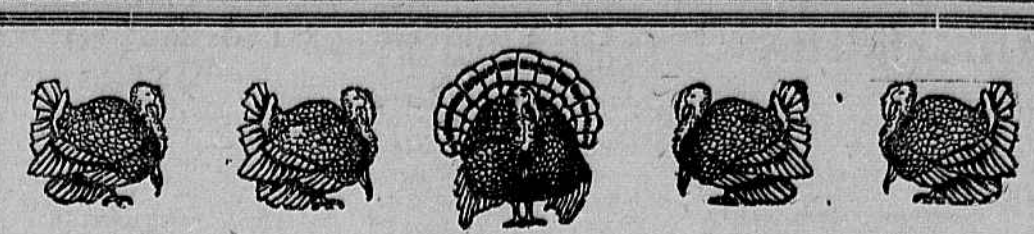
### Elon College Notes.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
ELON COLLEGE, N. C., November 21.—Monday evening in the college auditorium the annual faculty music recital was held. The evening was indeed the audience a happy, cultured and appreciative, and the ladies who furnished the entertainment of the evening, clad in gay Parisian costumes, were in excellent trim for the occasion. Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, beginning at 2 o'clock, the department

of expression in the institution gave two excellent recitals. The first recital consisted of two parts and a vocal solo by Mrs. A. C. Hall, participated in by Messrs. A. C. Hall, E. T. Hines and Misses Mary Foster, Ethel Clements, Lottie Phillips and Nannie Baker Farmer. The program consisted of readings, recitations, pantomimes and dramatic selections. The second recital, which was held on Thursday afternoon, consisted of readings, recitations, humorous selections, pantomimes and poses, and was participated in by Mr. S. M. Atkinson and Misses Jennie Lee Williams, Fannie Clepp, Bertha Barker, Wilmer Winn and Laura Bond.

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The bargains we offer eclipse any we have offered this season. If there is anything you require to add to your collection of home-fixings, you will do well by getting it here.

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Large plate mirror.

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\$2.00 Iron Beds at \$1.00  
\$3.00 Iron Beds at \$1.50  
\$10.00 Iron Beds at \$5.00  
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Union Ingrain Carpet at 43c per yard, only.

High Grade Ingrain Carpet, per yard, only.

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